DESKTOP FIREWIRE HARD DRIVES COMPARED

Company	Product	Rating	Contact	Price^A	Price per GB	Con-nectors (No.)	Other Capacities	Pros	Cons	Comments	LAB TEST Copy 1GB to Drive	LAB TEST Duplicate 1GB on Drive	LAB TEST Low Memory PhotoShop CS Suite
Edge Tech	DiskGo 3.5-inch Portable Hard Drive, 400GB	2.5	www.edgetechcorp.com	$375	$0.94	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	80GB, $99; 120GB, $120; 160GB, $135; 250GB, $200	Low price per gigabyte; can boot OS X using FireWire.	Very slow at booting OS X via FireWire; inconsistent speed performance.	This 400GB model is the only DiskGo drive that can boot OS X, and it does so very slowly. In fact, this drive's speed varied widely during our testing.	1:37	1:19	1:47
EZQuest	Monsoon FW/USB2 HD, 250GB	4	www.ezq.com	$185	$0.74	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	80GB, $109; 160GB, $139; 200GB, $165; 400GB, $339; 500GB, $469	Can boot OS X using FireWire; inexpensive.	No FireWire 800 ports.	The Monsoon is a slim drive, clad in anodized aluminum. It has both USB 2.0 and FireWire 400 ports, fast FireWire 400 speeds, and a low price.	0:47	1:17	1:37
G-Technology	G-Drive FW 800 & FW 400, 400GB	4	www.g-technology.com	$429	$1.07	FireWire 400 (1), FireWire 800 (2)	160GB, $189; 250GB, $249; 500GB, $569	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; unique case design; FireWire 400 and 800 ports.	No USB 2.0 ports; expensive.	This fast drive's design complements a Power Mac G5, and the drive is a great performer. It also has tons of storage space, but it's a bit expensive.	0:35	0:57	1:32

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Iomega	**Black Series Triple Interface, 250GB ***	4.5	www.iomega.com	$240	$0.96	FireWire 400 (1), FireWire 800 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	160GB, $180; 400GB, $380	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; triple interface; includes Retrospect Express.	None significant.	The Iomega Black Series is our top pick for desktop FireWire hard drives. You can't go wrong with its combination of connection options, low price per gigabyte, and winning speed.	**0:33**	0:55	1:33
Kanguru	3.5-inch Combo Quicksilver FireWire/USB 2.0, 80GB	3	www.kanguru.com	$130	$1.63	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	120GB, $150; 160GB, $155; 200GB, $200; 250GB, $210; 320GB, $290; 400GB, $410; 500GB, $540	Carrying case; stand; cool design.	Can't boot OS X using FireWire; slow; low capacity, though larger drives are available; high cost per gigabyte.	This drive can't boot OS X, but if you simply must have a drive featuring an illuminated marsupial, the larger capacity models are better deals.	0:53	1:34	1:59
LaCie	Hard Drive, Design by F.A. Porsche FireWire 400, 160GB	4	www.lacie.com	$139	$0.87	FireWire 400 (2)	80GB, $119; 250GB, $169	Low price per gigabyte; can boot OS X using FireWire.	No USB 2.0 ports.	This drive has a very simple design and a low price. It's a good choice for people who don't have FireWire 800–compatible computers or need a large-capacity drive.	1:00	1:23	1:51

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Maxtor	OneTouch II FireWire 800 & USB Drive, 300GB	4	www.maxtor.com	$320	$1.07	FireWire 400 (1), FireWire 800 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	200GB, $230	Can boot OS X using FireWire; triple interface; one-button backup via Retrospect Express (included).	Slow performance when copying and duplicating files.	This triple-interface drive is designed for backing up. It ships with Retrospect Express and has a programmable button that can initiate backups.	1:32	1:56	**1:28**
Maxtor	OneTouch II FireWire/USB Drive, 300GB	3.5	www.maxtor.com	$280	$0.93	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	200GB, $200; 250GB, $250	Can boot OS X using FireWire; one-button backup with Retrospect Express (included); low cost per gigabyte.	Very slow performance, except for Photoshop test.	This double-interface desktop hard drive is designed to be a backup device. It ships with Retrospect Express and has a programmable button that can initiate backups. Unfortunately, it practically crawled through our copying and duplicating tests.	1:42	2:12	1:30
MicroNet	Platinum FireWire + USB 2.0 Hard Drive 7,200 rpm, 300GB	4	www.micronet.com	$246	$0.82	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	80GB, $134; 120GB, $140; 160GB, $154; 200GB, $177; 250GB, $186; 400GB, $446	Two FireWire 400 ports; can boot OS X using FireWire.	No FireWire 800 port.	MicroNet's Platinum drive offers solid FireWire 400 performance in a sturdy silver and black case.	0:48	1:22	1:36

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Other World Computing	Neptune 7,200 rpm FireWire Solution, 320GB	4	www.mac sales.com	$230	$0.72	FireWire 400 (2)	80GB, $106; 160GB, $140; 200GB, $165; 250GB, $190	Can boot OS X via FireWire; includes Retrospect Express; includes stand.	Limited connection options.	OWC's Neptune line is short on bells and whistles but performs solidly. And it's very affordable.	0:47	1:20	1:48
Other World Computing	Mercury Elite-AL Pro 7,200 rpm FireWire 800/400+ USB2, 250GB	4.5	www.mac sales.com	$230	$0.92	FireWire 400 (1), FireWire 800 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	80GB, $160; 160GB, $200; 200GB, $210; 300GB, $270; 400GB, $360; 500GB, $480	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; triple interface; includes Retrospect Express.	None significant.	The Mercury Elite-AL Pro is very fast, winning one of our three timed trials. It also has a slim aluminum case that complements a Power Mac G5.	0:36	**0:54**	1:34
Other World Computing	Mercury Elite FireWire 800 Pro, 400GB	4.5	www.mac sales.com	$390	$0.98	FireWire 400 (1), FireWire 800 (2)	80GB, $160; 160GB, $190; 200GB, $230; 250GB, $240; 300GB, $290	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; large capacity; FireWire 400 and 800 ports.	No USB 2.0 ports.	The Mercury Elite FireWire 800 Pro is a high-capacity, high-performance desktop drive for people more concerned with speed and performance than with design details.	0:35	0:57	1:31
SmartDisk	CrossFire Desktop, 160GB	4	www.smart disk.com	$170	$1.06	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	250GB, $250	Can boot OS X using FireWire; USB 2.0 and FireWire connectors; distinctive design; good FireWire 400 speeds.	No FireWire 800 ports.	This moderately priced drive features the same signature case design as other SmartDisk drives—it's just bigger.	0:51	1:25	1:48

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Western Digital	Extreme Lighted Combo Drive, 320GB	4	www.wdc.com	$300	$0.94	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	120GB, $180; 160GB, $200; 250GB, $250	Can boot OS X using FireWire; unique lighted design.	Takes up more desktop space than most drives; no FireWire 800 ports.	With its clear plastic case and two 5-inch tubes that glow and change colors, this moderately priced drive adds some fun to its function.	0:49	1:21	1:41
Western Digital	Dual-Option Combo, 250GB	4	www.wdc.com	$215	$0.86	FireWire 400 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	160GB, $180; 120GB, $160; 320GB, $260	Can boot OS X using FireWire; programmable buttons for backup; Retrospect Express (included); USB and FireWire connectors.	Sluggish performance; no FireWire 800 connectors.	Designed to be a desktop backup device, this drive features a one-button backup via the included Retrospect Express. Its FireWire 400 performance was a little sluggish. A version featuring a built-in memory card reader is available for $299.	1:06	1:33	1:53
WiebeTech	ToughTech 800, 250GB	4	www.wiebetech.com	$300	$1.20	FireWire 800 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	120GB, $220; 160GB, $230; 400GB, $530	Can boot OS X using FireWire; rugged; fast; USB and FireWire connectors.	Expensive; no FireWire 400 connectors.	The ToughTech might cost a little bit more than most drives, but it has great FireWire 800 performance, sports a USB 2.0 connector, and is designed to take a beating.	0:39	1:02	**1:28**

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WiebeTech	UltraGB+ 800, 160GB	4	www.wiebe.com	$380	$2.38	FireWire 800 (2), USB 2.0 (1)	120GB, $350; 200GB, $400; 250GB, $400; 500GB, $800	Can boot OS X using FireWire; bus-powered.	High cost per gigabyte.	This desktop drive is bus-powered. If you don't plan on traveling with it, it probably isn't worth its price. But if you're an on-the-go video pro, powering up an extra 500GB from your PowerBook could be very useful.	0:37	1:02	1:37
* = Top Product. All Drives in this table have a rotation speed of 7,200 rpm. ^{A}All prices shown are the manufacturers' suggested retail prices.											<Better	<Better	<Better

How We Tested All speeds are in minutes:seconds. We ran all tests with the FireWire drives connected to a dual-2.5GHz Power Mac G5 with Mac OS X 10.3.7 installed and 512MB of RAM. All drives were tested using FireWire 800, unless it was unavailable; in those cases, we used FireWire 400. We copied a folder containing 1GB of data from our Mac's hard drive to the external hard drive to test the drive's read speed. We then duplicated that file on the external drive to test both read and write speeds. We also used the drive as a scratch disk when running our low-memory Adobe Photoshop CS Suite test. This test is a set of four tasks performed on a 150MB file, with Photoshop's memory set to 50 percent.**—Macworld Lab Testing by James Galbraith and Jerry Jung**

BEST RESULTS IN **BOLD**.